

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract for containing the term "the present invention". A replacement Abstract is attached.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, and 6-12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nickum (USP 6,359,661). Claims 3, 11, and 12 have been cancelled, and each of the remaining claims have been amended in view of this prior art.

Independent claims 1, 8, and 10 are amended herein to specifically recite that the gatekeeper device transmits a user identification to an apparatus upon receipt of a communication from the apparatus. Nickum specifically teaches the transmission of a user identification to an apparatus whenever a user selects a particular button on a remote control device.

Because Nickum fails to teach the transmission of a user identification in response to a communication from an apparatus, as specifically claimed in each of the Applicants' independent claims, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-2 and 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nickum.

Further, with specific regard to amended claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 10, independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to specifically recite that the gatekeeper device is configured to only selectively transmit a user identification. As taught by the Applicants, an objective of this invention is to provide a gatekeeper device that is compact, simple-to-operate, and substantially independent of the particular apparatus to which it transmits the user identification. By providing a device that is configured to only transmit a user identification, these objectives can easily be achieved.

Nickum teaches the inclusion of an identifier in a conventional remote control device, and the transmission of the identifier to the apparatus that the remote control device is intended to operate. Because the remote control device is configured to also transmit control information to the apparatus, it cannot achieve the compactness or simplicity of operation provided by the Applicants' invention. By associating the identification of a user with the direct functional control of the apparatus, Nickum's device is limited in use to the particular apparatus, or to a particular class of apparatuses.

By providing a sole-function device that only transmits a user identification, the Applicants' invention can be used to enable the personalization of any device to which it can communicate.

Because Nickum does not disclose a gatekeeper device that is uniquely designed to transmit only a user identification to an apparatus, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nickum.

With specific regard to amended claims 8 and 9, the Applicants specifically claim the selective transmission of a user identification to each of a plurality of apparatuses. Because Nickum includes the transmission of a user identification into a remote control device of an apparatus, Nickum's invention is specifically limited to the apparatus that it is designed to control.

Because Nickum does not disclose a gatekeeper device that is configured to send a user identification to a plurality of apparatuses, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nickum.

The Examiner has rejected claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nickum in view of Chen et al (USP 5,686,887, hereinafter Chen). Dependent claims 4 and 5 are amended herein to correspond to independent claim 1 as amended. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection based on the remarks above regarding claim 1, and based on the following remarks.

The Examiner relies on Chen for providing a notification to a user upon receipt of a communication from an apparatus. The Applicants concur with this characterization of Chen.

The Examiner relies on Nickum for teaching the claimed elements of independent claim 1. As noted above, amended claim 1 specifically recites the transmission of a user identification from the gatekeeper device in response to a communication from an apparatus. Nickum specifically teaches the independent transmission of a user identification.

Because Nickum fails to teach the transmission of a user identification in response to a communication from an apparatus, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nickum in view of Chen.

Respectfully submitted,



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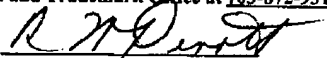
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On 9 December 2002

By



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Amended) A system for providing personalized services, comprising
an apparatus which is capable of personalizing its behavior in accordance with a user profile, [characterized in that the system also comprises] and
a gatekeeper device that is configured to selectively transmit a user identification only, in response to receipt of a communication from the apparatus,
wherein
the apparatus is configured to effect the personalizing of its behavior based on the user identification
[for controlling said personalization, said gatekeeper device comprising user operable control means for adjusting the extent of said personalization].
2. (Amended) A system as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that
the gatekeeper device includes a user control to selectively transmit the user identification [said control means comprise confirmation means for specifying that the apparatus is allowed to personalize its behavior].
4. (Twice Amended) A system as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that
the gatekeeper device is configured to provide notification of the communication from the apparatus [is capable of detecting the proximity of the apparatus, the gatekeeper device also comprising notification means for notifying such detection].
5. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that
the communication from the apparatus [is capable of transmitting] includes an identification signal of the apparatus that distinguishes the apparatus from an other apparatus [for facilitating said detection].
6. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that
the gatekeeper device is further configured to enable selection of one or more options that affect selectively transmitting the user identification [comprises further user

operable control means for establishing a relationship with the apparatus, said relationship specifying the extent of personalization] at subsequent occasions.

7. (Amended) A system as claimed in Claim [6] 1, characterized in that

the apparatus is [capable of generating] further configured to:

generate an identity tag which identifies a select personalization, and [said relationship and of exchanging said]

communicate the identity tag [with] to the gatekeeper device, the gatekeeper device being capable of storing said identity tag for use as the user identification at subsequent occasions.

8. (Twice Amended) A system for providing personalized services, comprising

an apparatus which is capable of personalizing its behavior in accordance with a user profile, and

a gatekeeper device that is configured to selectively transmit a user identification, in response to receipt of a communication from the apparatus,

wherein

the apparatus is configured to effect the personalizing of its behavior based on the user identification and a user profile, and

[as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that]

the gatekeeper device is capable of storing [at least one] the user profile for selective communication to the apparatus [and of exchanging said user profile with said apparatus].

9. (Twice Amended) A system as claimed in Claim [1] 8, characterized in that the

apparatus is capable of exchanging [a] the user profile with [said] the gatekeeper device or [a further] another apparatus.

10. (Twice Amended) A gatekeeper device [for use in a system as claimed in Claim 1] comprising:

a transceiver that is configured to:

_____ receive communication from an apparatus that is configured to effect a
personalization of the operation of the apparatus based on a user identification, and
_____ selectively transmit the user identification only; and
_____ one or more user controls that facilitate selectively transmitting the user
identification.